# GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
# HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT
# LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:688
ANSWERED ON:06.02.2017
Out of Schools
Udhayakumar Shri M.

**Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:**

(a) whether it is a fact that freshly released census 2011 data has revealed that a large number of children do not go to school at all in the country and if so, the details thereof;
(b) whether it is also true that many Indian children are forced to earn a livelihood even as they attend schools and if so, the details thereof;
(c) whether it is true that the increasing cost of education is one of the reasons for the piling number of students who do not go to school; and
(d) if so, the steps taken by the Government to ensure that free education is provided to such students?

## Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI UPENDRA KUSHWAHA)
(a): Census 2011 has reported that 8.4 crore children do not go to school in the age group of 5 − 17 years. However, under the Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education (RTE) Act, 2009 the mandated age group for free and compulsory elementary education in a neighbourhood school is 6-14 years. According to Census 2011, the number of children who do not attend schools (including never attended and attended before) in the age group of 6-13 years are 3.81 crore. Census 2011 has shown a marked decline in the number of out of school children in this age group from 5.8 crore in 2001 to 3.8 crore in 2011, a 35% decline over a period of ten years. The States and UTs in their Annual Work Plan & Budget, 2016-17 under Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan have reported a total of 14.2 lakh children as out of school at the elementary level of schooling as on 31.03.2016.